

Application No. 10/630,731
Amendment dated November 30, 2006
After Final Office Action of July 31, 2006

Docket No.: 0717-0513P

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig. 9.

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-14, and 16-18 are present in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 14 are independent claims. Claim 15 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 15, 16, and 18 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to incorporate claim 15 and revised claim 16 to depend from claim 6.

Based on this amendment, Applicant submits that at least claim 6 is allowable, as well as dependent claims 7, 13, and 15-18.

Specification Objection

The specification has been objected to because the specification is inconsistent with the drawing in Fig. 9.

Applicant agrees that the specification discloses that “the openings 11a can have any shape with no specific limitation as long as the support pins 43 can be inserted therein” and “instead of the support pins 43, supporting members having a rod structure, i.e., having a larger top area, may be used” (specification at paras. 0066 and 0072). Thus, it can be seen that the specification discloses that the rod-like supporting members 45 each having roller 46 provided at a top end thereof would be inserted through the openings 11a, which would be designed such that the larger roller 46 can fit therethrough.

Applicant notes that Fig. 9 is not shown to scale and is intended to be viewed in light of the present specification. In order to explicitly show openings 11a sufficiently large for rollers 46 to fit therethrough, Applicant provides herewith a revised drawing for Fig. 9. Applicant requests that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) – Koefeld

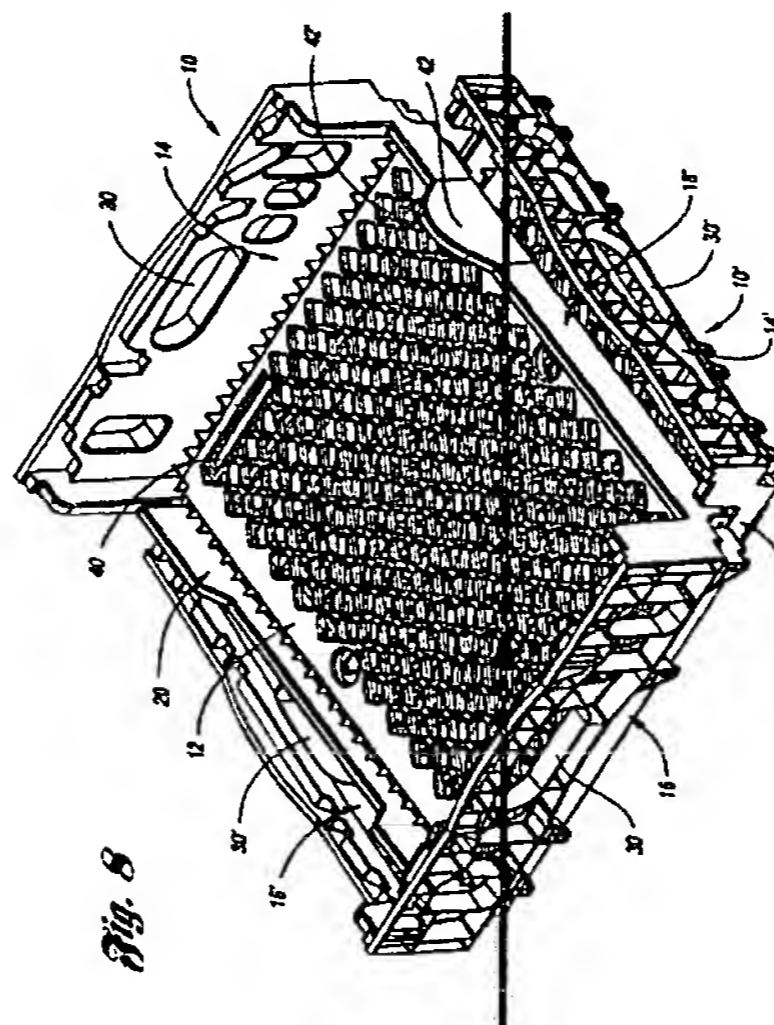
Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,260,706 (Koefeld). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 9 had been amended to recite, among other things, “a positioning portion provided along an entire periphery of said frame, for determining the positional relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is to be stacked thereon.”

With respect to this feature, the Office Action indicates that Koefeldt teaches “[t]he bottom surface of the frame has the ability to sit on the other tray as in stacked up configuration.” The Office Action also indicates that walls 14, 16, 18 and 20 include a positioning portion.

Applicant submits that although it may be true that Koefeldt’s trays have an ability to sit on the other tray as in a stacked up configuration, Koefeldt does not teach or suggest a “positioning portion provided along an entire periphery of said frame, for determining the positional relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is to be stacked thereon. (emphasis added), as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Applicant submits that walls 18 and 20, for example, do not determine a positional relationship for a tray stacked thereon, and thus would not constitute part of a positioning portion provided along an entire periphery of the frame. In particular, in an embodiment of Koefeldt in which the walls 18 and 20 are used to stack a tray as shown in Fig. 8, it can be seen that a tray would actually be placed on top of another tray on the side walls 18, 18’, 20, 20’. Thus, only two opposite sides are in contact with a tray above or below.



On the other hand, in the present invention step 14 is provided along the entire periphery of the frame 12 (e.g., see Fig. 4), for determining the positional relationship between the display substrate accommodating tray and another display substrate accommodating tray which is to be stacked thereon.

FIG. 4

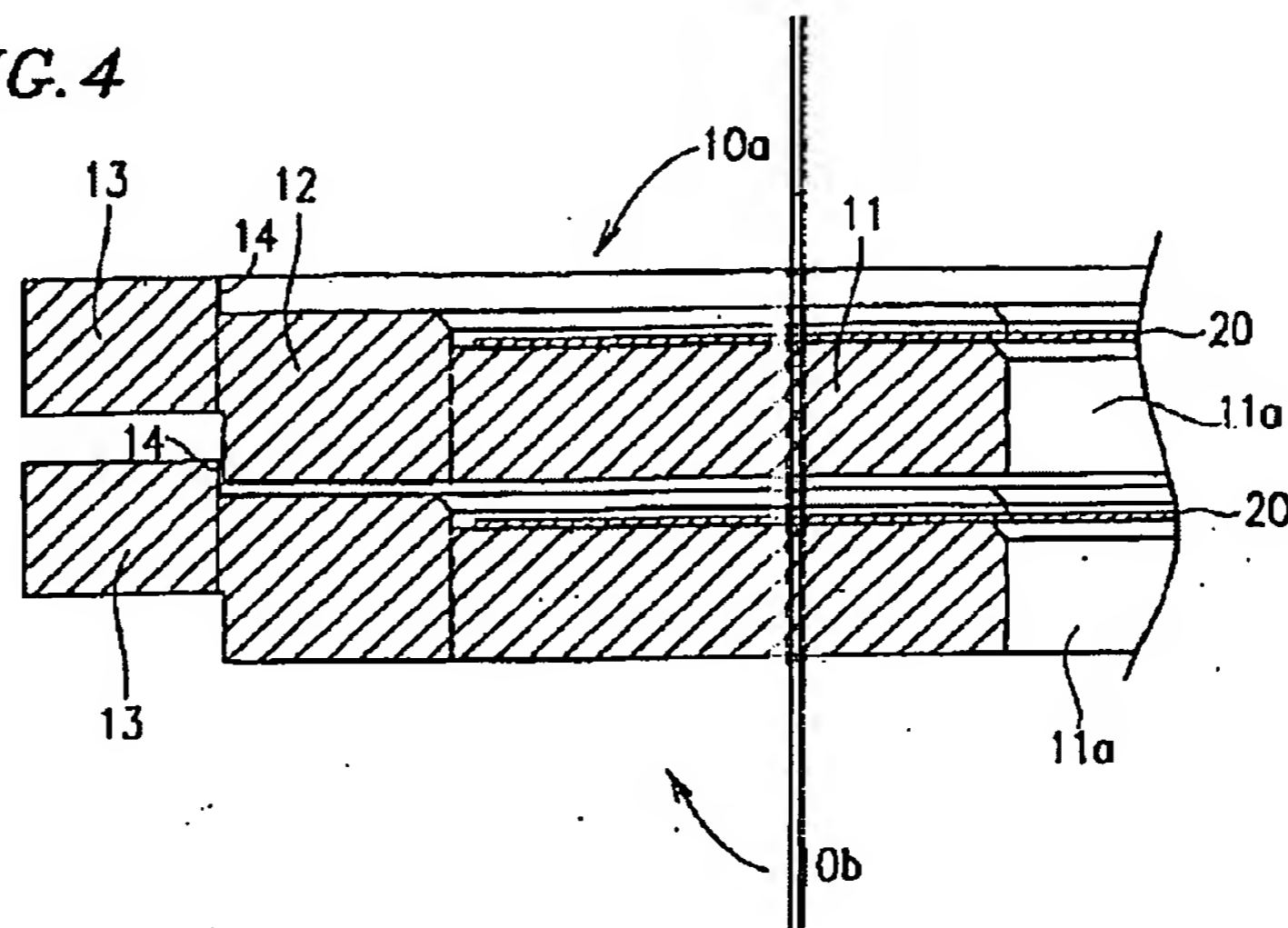
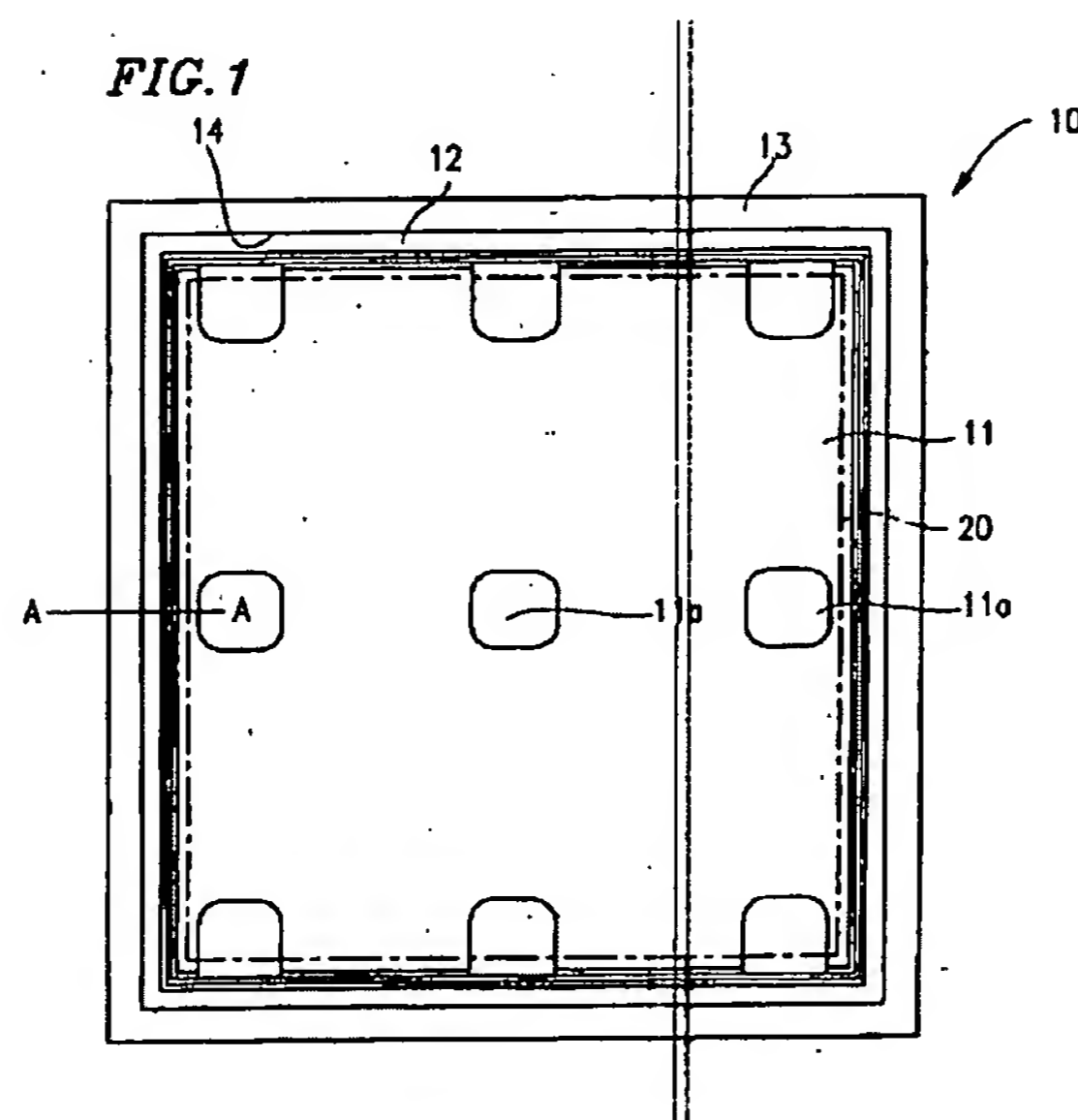


FIG. 1



For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Koefeldt fails to teach each and every claimed element. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 14 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In addition, further with respect to claim 14, the Office Action appears to allege that “elements 32 and 39 can also be considered as engaging section that provide grip for a human being to lift and transport the tray.” To the contrary, the present invention includes an engaging section to be engaged by a carrying section. Furthermore, Koefeldal discloses element 32 as being a “projection” and refers to element 39 as being a “recessed portion.” Koefeldal’s recessed portion 39 is disclosed as being to aid in product manufacturing and access” (col 17, lines 49-52). Claim 14, however, recites, “to be engaged by a carrying section.” For at least these reasons, Applicant disagrees that Koefeldal’s recessed portion 39 is for engaging by a carrying section.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Koefeldal does not teach or suggest that the engaging section extends from a side surface of the frame along an entire periphery of the frame in a substantially horizontal fashion, or that such a structure would be engaged by a carrying section for carrying the display substrate accommodating tray.

For example, as shown in Fig. 8 of Koefeldal, each of the trays of Koefeldal is rotated 90 degrees with respect to a tray below or above. As shown in Fig. 8, any engaging portion can only lie on two opposite sides of the tray. In other words, the engaging portion cannot extend from a side surface of the frame along an entire periphery of the frame in a substantially horizontal fashion, to be engaged by a carrying section for carrying the display substrate accommodating tray.

For at least this additional reason, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 14 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Koefeldal, Akihiro

Claims 6-8, 13, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koefeldal in view of JP 11-059893 (Akihiro). Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate claim 15. Thus, Applicant submits that the rejection no longer applies for claims 6, 7, 13, and 17. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 8.

Claim 8 recites, among other things, “...a second supporting member adapted to be pushed downwards by said accommodating tray.”

This feature had been indicated as being allowable with respect to claim 15. Applicant submits that for at least the reasons that the features of claim 15 were considered to distinguish over Koefeld, the features of claim 8 should be considered allowable as well. Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) – Koefeld, Nakajima

Claims 5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koefeld in view of JP 2003-236953 (Nakajima). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Nakajima fails to make up for the deficiencies in Koefeld. At least for the reasons above for claims 1 and 9, Applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness for claims 5 and 12. Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

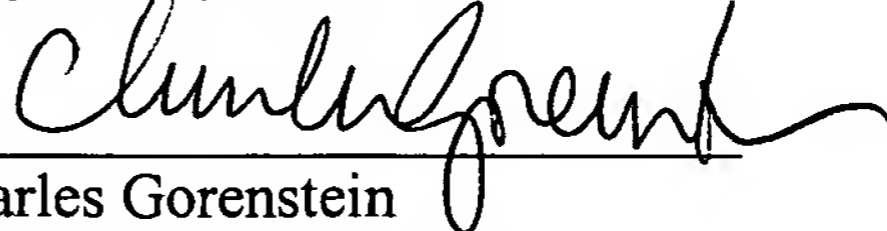
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments